which now stands at 4 per cent in view of allowing FDI not only from FIIs but also from others;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government are going to float tender inviting bids for 330 FM Radio stations in 90 cities of the Country; and

(d) if so, the details of the cities identified in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) The government has formulated a new FM Radio Broadcasting policy, which *inter-alia* provides for an One Time Entry Fee to be decided on the basis of closed tender system, annual fee @4% of gross revenue, foreign investment including FDI, upto 20% of the paid up equity. Further, details of the policy are available on Ministry's website (www.mib.nic.in)

(c) and (d) A total of 336 Channels in 90 cities will be made available for bidding in Phase II of FM radio broadcasting through private agencies. The identified cities in Andhra Pradesh are Hyderabad, Vijaywada, Vishakhapatnam, Rajamundry, Tirupati and Warangal.

Broadcasting Regulatory Commission

47. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to bring a Bill for setting up a Broadcasting Regulatory Commission to regulate functioning of the news and TV channels and providing level play field for all broadcasters;

(b) if so, whether discussions on media persons and meetings of heads of news units of AIR of northern region was held recently;

(c) if so, whether Government have agreed to the proposal of regulating TV channels in view of a large number of private channels;

(d) if so, the details of proposed legislation; and

(e) to what extent this legislation would help in checking misuse of TV channels?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The Government is contemplating the establishment of an autonomous Authority to regulate content on TV channels. A draft Bill is under preparation.

(b) Prasar Bharati has informed that a conference of regional news units of northern region of All India Radio was held in Shimla on 20th & 21st June, 2005. This conference was held with the aim of improving the quality of news programming at regional level. It also discussed issues like introduction of new technology and utilisation of new range of equipment.

Employees working in Prasar Bharati

†48. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI JANARDAN DWIVEDI:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the position of employees working in Prasar Bharati;

(b) whether they are Government employees or that of Prasar Bharati;

(c) the terms of service of these employees; and

(d) whether the rules applicable to the Government employees are also applicable to the employees of Prasar Bharati?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (d) Most of the employees presently working in Prasar Bharati are Central Government employees. They are on deemed deputation on terms applicable to Central Government employees.

Ban on channels in Bhutan

†49. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bhutan has imposed ban on many channels being telecast from India;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.